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The Bridge Newsletter Ferrycliffe Farm

Roger Williams College Alumni Association

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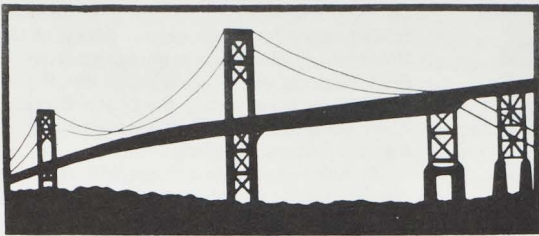
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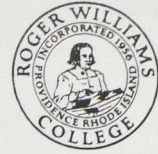
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the bridge newsletter

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For R.W.C. the Discovery of a New Heritage in Bristol Ferrycliffe Farm (est. 1877)



Dr. Herbert Marshall Howe

With the Mount Hope Bridge gracing its view, the Roger Williams College Campus, now seven years old, is seen in a tranquil setting, one of the most beautiful in Rhode Island. Its land is on a small cliff that was once part of Ferrycliffe Farm, overlooking Mount Hope Bay. The College had the fortunate opportunity to acquire sixty-three of Ferrycliffe's one hundred thirty acres in 1965 from Mrs. Mary Howe De Wolf Fulton and Dr. Marshall Nairne Fulton. Although the Bristol Campus is much younger than the College, whose beginnings can be traced as far back as 1919 in Providence, the new campus has a unique claim to an interesting history of its land.

Ferrycliffe Farm dates back to 1877 when the property was purchased and named by Mrs. Fulton's grandfather, Dr. Herbert Marshall Howe who was both a practicing physician and artist. Dr. Howe purchased the land from H. B. Bowen for twenty thousand dollars.

Hailing from Philadelphia, Dr. Howe had been in the summertime habit of residing with his father and family on the Weetamoe farmland, whose elegant yellow house can still be seen from Metacom Avenue just south of the Haffenreffer estate. His father, Bishop Mark Antony DeWolf Howe, was an erudite gentleman whose religious convictions and

ministry experience brought him honor when in 1871 he was chosen to preside as Protestant Episcopal Bishop over the New Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. After retiring from his post, he spent his last few months at Weetamoe.

Since Ferrycliffe Farm was a working farm, the hired help were up and about at dawn. There were the usual chores: the early morning and early evening milkings, the seasonal cutting and pitching of hay, the bringing in of corn crops, as well as the general care and harvest of the garden. As was reported in the Bristol Phoenix, in 1881, the Farm grew its own beet stock valued for its wholesome qualities. Each cow received about a bucket of this each day.

The Farm was maintained primarily for the breeding of a prized Jersey herd with prizewinning Jerseys being shown in Dr. Howe's time prior to the 1900's and in subsequent years as late as the forties and fifties. In addition to pheasants and pigeons Dr. Howe kept pedigreed turkeys, horses, and of course the Jersey herd.

"... with the aid of the fine Bysdik's Hambletonian colt he (Dr. Howe) drove, quickly brought us to his elegant summer residence at 'Ferrycliffe Farm.' ... He has shown that real elegance in living is compatible with country habits and successful farming." (A guest's account of Ferrycliffe, Bristol Phoenix, August 12, 1881)

Family heirlooms dating back to Dr. Howe's time illustrate his devotion to Ferrycliffe. An 1893 map marks the boundaries of the property, and also shows a special row of trees that were intended to shade the drive of the new home Dr. Howe had hoped to build. Although his new home was never built, these trees may still be seen south of the College pond among a newer growth of trees and underbrush. As well as the dated map in the Fulton home, there is his stately self-portrait, an oil painting handsomely rendered in dark tones, and another painting commissioned by him of his favorite and famous Jersey bull, Gilderoy, dated 1882.

In later years when the land had passed from Dr. Howe via Mrs. Howe to his daughter, Edith Howe De Wolf, Mrs. Fulton's mother, the Howe tradition of the Jersey herd was continued, as well as an increased enthusiasm for turkeys. A 1935 farming journal can testify to this with a splendid illustration of a prize-winning Ferrycliffe

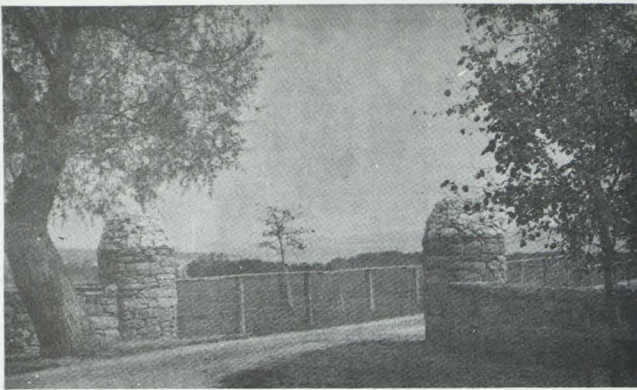


Edith Howe De Wolf

turkey at Madison Square Garden.

While Mrs. Fulton was growing up, the farm continued its operation. She remembers their Jersey herd being shown at the Rhode Island State Fair at Kingston, the Brockton Fair and the New England States' Exposition at Springfield. She fondly remembers the farm animals: golden and ringnecked pheasants, ducks and geese, and the guinea hens that had the run of the Farm. Recalling the Farm's garden which was located east of the farmhouse, Mrs. Fulton said that it covered almost an acre, and yielded crops through the entire summer. The garden produced all the family vegetables, and even such delicacies as okra, gooseberries and strawberries. Because the garden often produced more than could be used, the surplus was donated to a children's home in Bristol. To add to the garden's bounty, a greenhouse supplied fresh grapes and peaches. And one must not forget the rich Jersey milk which people generally preferred at that time, in spite of its higher cost.

According to Dr. Howe's map, the original fields bordering Ferry Road were much broader. In 1956 when Ferry Road was widened, the family sold additional property to the State to save the trees that once edged the western land. Now part of a median strip, these trees still shade Ferry



The Original Beehive Stone posts that once greeted the traveller upon his entrance to Ferrycliffe Farm

Road and are part of a colorful seascape as one drives by the College approaching the Mount Hope Bridge in autumn.

As part of the road widening, the State moved back the original stone wall and the beehive stone posts still seen as one enters the College gate. Although the State did rebuild the once handsome looking posts, their lovely rustic symmetry was never to be restored. See photograph.

Metacom Avenue was to later cut across the Farm's best eighteen acre front field leaving an unusable portion west of the new road opposite the Nike Site. This section has since been sold to a developer while east of it and Metacom Avenue is the College's northern parking lot, also part of the original front field.

The Nike Site property and its history is linked to General Burnside whose summer residence once stood southeast of the Site. Fragments of the house once belonging to the Union General, Governor of Rhode Island, and United States Senator may still be visible amidst leaves and underbrush.

Using the College's main gate as an exit, one can cross Ferry Road, turn left, pace about one hundred ten feet, and still see on his right the drive that led to the main house where the Howes resided every summer between 1865 and 1925. Fragments of the house known as the "Homestead" also remain. A rambling Victorian building, it was of New England character due to weathered shingles and a large porch which surrounded it on three sides. Lush green vines covered its sides and porch columns. The "Homestead," however, was not located on the Ferrycliffe Farm property.

The original farmhouse still exists and is located east of Metacom Avenue at the end of the College's main entrance, its former drive. Tall elms once shaded the long drive, but were destroyed by the Dutch Elms Disease. The grey and white farmhouse is rather curious-looking because of a tower attached to one end. This was a more recent addition used to board as many as four workmen when the Farm was in full operation. The managing farmer resided in the house as Enzly Ramsay does now. He has been managing Ferrycliffe since 1957, and likes to point out that the central section of the home will be one hun-

dred years old in 1977. Mr. Ramsay also states that the Farm gave up its operation in the late fifties with the last cow being sold in 1962.

"We had talked for a number of years as to just what would be the best use of this land," says Dr. Fulton.

The Fultons did not wish to see a housing development spoil the natural beauty of the Farm's landscape, yet the future for keeping Ferrycliffe as an operating farm was dim. Ferrycliffe Farm was just too close to the industry of Bristol and other towns.

Dr. Fulton, "You couldn't produce milk, and raise crops, and pay your help that kind of wages."

In 1964 President Ralph E. Gauvey contacted the Fultons by telephone about the possibility of a partial land acquisition. He asked if he and Mr. Gerald Harrington, then Secretary to the College Corporation and later Chairman of the Building Committee,



Although not part of the campus, the original farmhouse is a familiar building at the end of the College drive.

could meet with them to discuss the idea. With his foresight, Dr. Gauvey could well imagine that Ferrycliffe Farm would be an ideal location for the site of a college campus. In his preparation Dr. Gauvey compiled an attractive book of pictures accompanied by suitable comments and quotations. After several meetings with the Fultons in order to discuss the use of the land, the college finally acquired sixty-three acres of Ferrycliffe in 1965.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Fulton have been active in education, and both have had impressive and interesting careers. Mrs. Fulton is an active member of the Roger Williams College Corporation and Building Committee, and has also served as a Trustee at the Mary C. Wheeler School in Providence. She attended

the Gordon School and the Mary C. Wheeler School, spent her junior year in college at the University of Munich, and graduated from Bryn Mawr College. During World War II she worked as a nurse's aid at the Walter Reed Army Hospital, Valley Forge Hospital and Ashford General Hospital.

Dr. Fulton has been a Roger Williams College Trustee for five years, and has also been a Brown University Alumni Trustee. His education has been extensive having been awarded his Bachelor of Philosophy degree at Brown University, his Bachelor of Arts degree at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and his Doctor of Medicine degree at Johns Hopkins University. Having held numerous official positions at hospitals in the East, Dr. Fulton headed the department of cardiovascular disease at Walter Reed Army Hospital and was physician in chief at Rhode Island Hospital for fourteen years.

Due to their generosity and evident concern for the progress of education, Roger Williams College begun in the Providence YMCA, now possesses a beautiful and unique campus located on the shore of Mount Hope Bay. Through the acquisition of the Ferrycliffe property, a new opportunity has been added to its development.

... The Editor would like to thank Dr. and Mrs. Fulton for granting an interview.

Credits

Anon. "The Ferrycliffe Farm." The Bristol Phoenix, August 13, 1981.

Dictionary of American Biography, Ed. Du-mas Malone. New York: Scribners 1961. Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island. Chicago: J. H. Beers and Co., 1908, I.

Who's Who in America. 34th ed. Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, Inc., 1966-1967.

Message From The Executive Vice President, Mr. William H. Rizzini

I am very happy to report that the college is making significant progress this year. Here is a capsule of the current situation on campus:

Enrollment: Exceeded 1500 students in the Fall semester. All the signs are very positive for the spring semester. The average enrollment for the year will exceed our original expectations.

New President: The search committee has narrowed its choices down to seven finalists. These candidates will be coming to campus during the month of February for two-day visits. The Board of Trustees will then receive five of these seven names from which they will select a president, after the visits are over. Alumni can feel free to contact me personally for information about these candidates. Two alumni are on the search committee.

Accreditation: The New England Association of Schools and Colleges Inc. has awarded us a full two-year reaccreditation. We are all very proud of this accomplishment which is quite unusual for an institution without a permanent President.

Nike Site: The college has received the news that H.E.W. has recommended to the General Services Administration the conveyance of this property to the college and

to the Newport County Chapter for Retarded Citizens. We now await news from G.S.A.

College Interest in Alumni: Very shortly, a major administrative appointment in the college will be announced. The person selected for the position is an alumnus. The college will continue to give very active consideration to alumni when positions are vacant or when new positions are developed.

Tennis Court: The college will soon have four tennis courts constructed on campus. It is our sincere hope that these courts will afford our students much pleasure as well as the community of Bristol. Alumni are invited to help out by sending in donations in care of the Alumni Office. Any amount would give us some progress toward our \$40,000.00 goal.

Finally, I hope that the arrival of this newsletter finds all of you happy and well. I am reminded many times that a college education should be not only for a positive position in life but also for a positive attitude towards life. I hope you are enjoying living in this way.

Sincerely yours,
William H. Rizzini
Exec. Vice President

The Board of Trustees Appoint Two Key Positions

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees unanimously appointed Mr. William H. Rizzini as Executive Vice President and Mr. Robert F. McKenna as Dean of Administration on November 20, 1975. Both men had been serving in an acting capacity since July.

Associated with Roger Williams College since 1961, Mr. Rizzini has taught English, served as Director of Continuing Education and Academic Dean. He is a graduate of Providence College, and holds master's degrees from the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.

Dean McKenna, also a longtime employee at the College, has taught in the business department and has served as Dean of Students. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Rhode Island, where he also earned a master's degree. Presently, he is a doctoral candidate in higher education administration at Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A Collection of Poetry To Be Published By Robert L. McRoberts

"I don't regard myself as a writer who teaches because teaching is the only way I can make a living. Teaching has been stimulating to my writing, and so my work here at the College has been important to my writing." Robert L. McRoberts, Instructor of Creative Writing.

Lip Service is a collection of poetry expected to be published this August by Ithaca House, a press organized by Baxter Hathaway of Cornell University. Many of Mr. McRoberts' poems were previously published in literary magazines such as Arts In Society (University of Wisconsin), Beloit Poetry Journal, Choice, Epoch (Cornell University), The Iowa Review (University of Iowa) and Poetry Northwest (University of Washington).

The poems in **Lip Service** were composed

over a period of about six years, most of which were written in 1971 through 1974. The book is divided into three sections with each section related in subject and voice.

The Creative Writing Instructor says that although he has been primarily concerned with establishing a distinctive voice, he is now trying different poetic voices. By consciously exploring other voices he feels that he will avoid writing poems of the same tone and theme.

As for Mr. McRoberts' commitment to education and his feelings toward his work he says, "I don't necessarily believe in book dedications, but I have been very fortunate to come across the students at Roger Williams College.

Alumni Art Exhibit Dec. 7 through Dec. 11

The first alumni event to take place on the Bristol Campus this year was sponsored by Ms. Carol Hathaway, Art Instructor and Chair-man of the Fine Arts Division. Mr. James Cathers, Instructor of Sculpture and Chairman of the Fine Arts Area, assisted in setting up the exhibit in the main lobby of the library.

The artists chose titles which added a feeling of intrigue to the show: Joel Wrona's "Melting Clock" and "Lovers' Rendezvous on the Midnight Wind," Tom Fitzgerald's "Onion Jar," and for his triptych, Joe Lytle's appropriate use of a quotation by W. B. Yeats, "The visible world is no longer a reality, and the unseen world is no longer a dream."

Both students and alumni were able to view accomplishments in ceramics, woven articles, paintings, pencil sketches, ink drawings and mixed media. Represented were David Dupre '74, Joel Wrona '73, Jack Vartanian '70, Ann Harkin Castro '73, Virginia Ricciardi Ohlin '72, Anne Silliman '75, Joseph Lytle '73, Donald Annaldo '74,



Ceramics by Jack Vartanian
Photo by Bill Stout

John Fernandes '75, Thomas Fitzgerald '75, and Michael Maher '74.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, the Alumni Office would like to thank Ms. Carol Hathaway for her interest in bringing back alumni to Roger Williams College.

Also, the best of luck to Joseph Lytle whose paintings have been on exhibit through February 29th at STUDIO ONE, 474 Thames Street, Bristol, R.I. (Hours: Wednesday through Sundays, 1 - 4 p.m.)

About Career Planning And Placement

By Mr. Kenneth W. Cedergren

The Career Planning and Placement Office is cooperating with the Office of Alumni Affairs to maintain a channel of communication with our graduates. In days when there is double-digit unemployment,



Director Placement, Mr. Kenneth W. Cedergren
Photo by Bill Stout '76

your college is very much aware of the service it must provide for you with regard to career counseling and placement.

The Senior Class has already received several invitations to attend meetings related to career planning. Dormitory Unit Seven and the RWC Courtesy Force have also held dinner meetings with guest speakers oriented toward professional careers. Dr. Sol Lebowitz, Dean of the Graduate School of Business at Bryant College, spoke to Unit Seven regarding professional careers for Liberal Arts majors. Donald Ryan, Esq., a RWC faculty member in the Law Center and Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, addressed the Courtesy Force on careers in law enforcement.

RWC alumni are invited to be in touch, and stay in touch with the College. We want to help. Here are some services we are most willing and anxious to provide:

Career Planning - Through an exchange of ideas about your goals and objectives, we can help you see how your experiences and education will see you through to your chosen career.

Interest Inventories - In cooperation with Alfred Shepherd and Carol Fuller, the college counselors, if an interest profile is required or recommended, such measurement can be provided, and the results will be interpreted to you in a private conference.

Job Placement - Requests from industry, education, social agencies, etc. are received by the Career Planning and Placement Office, and suitable candidates are referred without fee.

Resume Writing and Review - For students who will be graduating and for alumni seeking part-time or full time employment, the Director of Placement is available to aid in preparing a suitable resume. A variety of formats will be suggested and a critique made for those who wish to send their present resume to the Director of Placement.

On-campus Interviews - With expansion plans and hiring reduced in many industries, fewer companies are making on-campus visits. However, the College has received invitations from most firms who normally recruit on-campus to refer students and alumni directly to them.

Roger Williams College is a member of the College Placement Council. As Director of Placement, it is my privilege to be the college's representative in this prestigious organization. Members of the CPC include colleges, universities, and industries who recruit and hire from the campus.

Here are some additional ways in which we can be of service to you as alumni:

1. Return any questionnaires sent to you

promptly. These are of great significance as we seek to gather information about our graduates and their careers. Many of you have already returned the recent alumni questionnaire regarding your employment and current mailing address. All replies will be treated confidentially. Only statistical tabulations will be made public.

2. If you are unemployed and wish to have the college assist you in your job search, send us a copy of your resume and a note telling us the kind of position you are seeking. Once you are re-employed, share the good news with us.

3. If your present position is unrelated to your undergraduate major, and you want to change, communicate with us. We will try to help you make an easy transition.

4. Should graduate study be in your plans, talk with one of our counselors. The counselors have applications for graduate study qualifying examinations.

It is particularly pleasing when you call to let us know a position is open with your company. Having a RWC alumnus follow you into the firm is an honor. Please keep us in mind whenever openings occur. Our telephone number is 401-255-2222.

And, of course, please feel free to come to the college just to visit!

You Have Made It A Success!

Alumni, the response from the recent questionnaire mailing has been outstanding thus far. Thank you! As of February 5, the Alumni Office has received almost five hundred completed questionnaires.

The mailing of the questionnaires has generated an interest from both Alumni and the College Community. Alumni are offering constructive criticism, expressing their interest in prospective alumni events and their general concern for the affairs here at the College. The College Community in turn well appreciates the time you have taken to tell us about where you are and what you are doing. This information, once stored, tabulated and analyzed, will help the College in countless ways, and should be published in a future News-

letter in time. The employees of the Computer Center have been very cooperative helping to make the compiling of this information possible.

Your news is also encouraging. Some of our Alumni hold executive positions in corporations while others have gone on to good careers in management and teaching. There are many Alumni who teach in Rhode Island, elsewhere in New England, and in other areas as well, which says something about our students, alumni, faculty and administration.

Some of our Alumni are pursuing advanced degrees in interesting and significant fields.

If you have not already filled out your questionnaire, I strongly urge you to do so as soon as possible. About three thousand of you received this mailing; therefore the results can become more encouraging. KEEP THE MAIL COMING!

Sincerely, Sandra Grossi
Secretary of Alumni Affairs

News From RWC Sport Worlds

The 1975-1976 Basketball Season is turning out to be one of the College's best.

After sixteen games into the season the Hawks find themselves with thirteen wins and an eighteen game winning streak. Now, with seven games left in the season the outlook for a tournament bid to Kansas City is very bright.

Bob Henneberger and Alonzo Holloway continue to lead the Hawks in scoring while Keith Gurley leads the team in rebounds with ten per game.

Fred Barnes is having one of his finest seasons, scoring over thirteen points per game, and is rebounding very well. The rest of the team is balanced well by a fine bench.

The Hawks are looking forward to the final seven games with enthusiasm, and hopefully, the winning trend will continue throughout the season.

We all wish them good luck.

Hector Massa
Athletics Director

Basketball Statistics As of 2/5/76

Name	Total Pts.	Game Average
Alonzo Holloway	219	13.5
Rob Holford	66	4.1
Fred Barnes	208	13.0
Bob Henneberger	251	15.6
Keith Gurley	118	7.8
Larry Lang	104	7.0
Ed Morris	110	7.3
Craig Hiteshew	99	6.2
Rich Robinson	98	6.1
Kevin Wynne	96	6.0

Individual One-Game High Marks For This Season

Most Points: By A. Holloway vs. Curry College, Date 1/26/76, Pts. 33 FG 13 Ft 7.

Most F.G.: By A. Holloway vs. Curry College, Date 1/26/76, F.G. 13 ATT 25.

Most FT: By B. Henneberger vs. St. Joseph's College, Date 1/9/76, Ft 12 Att 12.

Most Rebbs: By C. Hiteshew vs. Franklin Pierce College, Date 12/8/75, No 25.

Season's Results

RWC	OPPONENT	Their Score
65	Husson College	78
88	Johnson St. College	53
114	Franklin Pierce College	50
87	Curry College	73
68	St. Joseph's College	44
67	Keene State College	77
103	Hawthorne College	80
75	Salem St. College	82
95	Nasson College	85
80	Eastern Nazarene College	72
93	St. Joseph's College	60
125	Windham College	56
59	New Hampshire College	52
90	Bridgewater State	50
84	Keene State College	78
97	Curry College	87

Did You Send In Your Alumni Questionnaire?

The Bridge Newsletter
Office of Alumni Affairs
Roger Williams College
Bristol, R. I. 02809

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